



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4  
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

July 31, 2015

Mr. Charles P. Nicholson  
NEPA Manager  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
400 West Summit Hill Drive WT 11D  
Knoxville, TN 37902

**Subject: EPA NEPA Review Comments on TVA's Integrated  
Resource Plan – 2015 Final Supplemental Environmental Impact  
Statement; CEQ No. 20150195**

Dear Mr. Nicholson:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the subject Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) 2015 Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) in accordance with our responsibilities under Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. The Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) provides options (future condition scenarios, alternative planning strategies, and resource planning portfolios) for TVA's future generation of electricity to sustainably supply the Tennessee Valley's projected customer needs for the next 20 years.

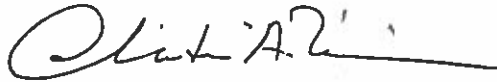
The TVA proposes to update its 2011 IRP to determine how it will meet the electrical needs of its customers over the next 20 years, and fulfill its mission of low-cost, reliable power, environmental stewardship and economic development. We commend TVA for its overall development of a comprehensive energy plan and EIS and, specifically, for strategic planning that de-emphasizes conventional coal and pursues lower emission power generation strategies.

TVA completed an IRP and associated EIS in 2011. Several changes in the power industry, both regionally and nationally, have led TVA to develop this new IRP and associated FSEIS. When completed, the new IRP will update and replace the 2011 IRP. The purpose of the IRP and EIS processes is to evaluate TVA's current energy resource portfolio and alternative future portfolios of energy resource options at a least system-wide cost to meet the future electrical energy needs of the TVA region while taking into account TVA's overall mission of energy, environmental stewardship and economic development. Energy resource options include the means by which TVA generates or purchases electricity, transmits that electricity to customers and influences the end use of that electricity through energy efficiency and demand response programs. As part of the IRP and EIS processes, TVA evaluated the future demand for electricity by its customers, characterized potential supply- and demand-side options for meeting future demand and assembled these options into planning strategies and capacity expansion plans or portfolios.

The EPA has reviewed the potential environmental impacts resulting from the implementation of the IRP in the TVA region. Based on the information provided in the FSEIS, it appears that you have addressed our primary concerns for significant adverse impacts to public health and safety. The general protection levels for the proposed actions within the IRP provides adequate environmental resource protection.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to review this FSEIS. If you have questions on our comments, please contact Larry Gissentanna of my staff at 404/562-8248 or [gissentanna.larry@epa.gov](mailto:gissentanna.larry@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris A. Militscher", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christopher A. Militscher  
Chief, NEPA Program Office  
Resource Conservation and Restoration Division